

Here's who's been spending millions on Trump condos this year

By Dennis Rodkin March 19, 2018

ComPsych CEO Richard Chaifetz and his wife, and, separately, an heiress to a Wisconsin manufacturing fortune, bought multimillion-dollar condos in the Trump International Hotel & Tower this winter.

In both cases, the buyers paid far above the \$747-per-square-foot average for sales at the Trump building that Crain's reported for all of 2017, noting that during Donald Trump's first year as president, prices dropped 12 percent, on average. Richard and Jill Chaifetz paid \$1,372 a foot on the 87th floor in March, and Judith Blazer paid \$1,400 a foot on the 88th.

Crain's reported both transactions when they closed, but the buyers' names were not in public records at the time of publication.

They're the only units in the building sold so far this year, according to Midwest Real Estate Data; last year's average was calculated from 17 sales.

A trust benefiting Richard Chaifetz paid \$9.4 million for a 6,850-square-foot condo on the tower's 87th floor in early March, according to the Cook County Recorder of Deeds.

Chaifetz is founder of **ComPsych**, a Chicago-based provider of employee assistance programs and an investment firm, Chaifetz Group. He and his wife, Jill, have a blufftop mansion on Lake Road in Lake Forest, according to the Lake County Recorder of Deeds, and a 75th-floor unit at Trump they bought in 2010 for about \$2.25 million, according to the Cook County Recorder of Deeds.

In February, Chaifetz **gave his alma mater, St. Louis University, \$15 million**, bringing to \$27 million his total gifts to the Jesuit institution in Missouri.

The couple did not respond to phone messages requesting comment. The agent who represented them, Chezi Rafaeli of Coldwell Banker, did not respond to a request for comment.

In February, a trust in Judith Blazer's name paid \$7.7 million for a 5,500-square-foot condo on the 86th floor, directly above the condo the Chaifetzes now own. Blazer is the granddaughter of Niels Miller, who in 1929 invented a lightweight arc welder that was the start of the Wisconsin firm Miller Electric. Two generations of the family ran the Appleton-based firm before selling it to Glenview-based Illinois Tool Works in 1993. Terms of the sale were not disclosed, but the Chicago Tribune reported at the time that Miller had over \$250 million in revenue in 1992.

Judith Miller could not be reached for comment. Her real estate agent, Kimberly Gleeson of Baird & Warner, did not respond to a request for comment. Cook County records show that Blazer has had a series of homes in Chicago since at least 1998.

In 2013, she paid \$6.75 million for a condo on the 31st floor of the Palmolive Building on Michigan Avenue. In 2005, she sold a 35,000-square-foot mansion on 80 acres in Ellison Bay, Wisconsin, for \$18 million.

Blazer has been a donor to PAWS, a no-kill animal shelter in Chicago, one of whose buildings bears her name.

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